



Biography

Air Mobility Command

Office of Public Affairs Scott Air Force Base, Illinois 62225-5335 (618) 256-7821

COLONEL GERALD SZPILA



Colonel Gerald Szpila is commander of the 43rd Operations Group at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The short-notice, combat-ready C-130E unit delivers/resupplies troops in forward battle area via Adverse Weather Aerial Delivery System (AWADS) and/or visual procedures. The group employs the U.S. Air Force's only tactical aeromedical evacuation squadron. He's responsible for the principal airfield for joint training and outload of XVIII Airborne Corps/82nd Airborne Division and supports two tenant A-10 units.

Colonel Szpila is a 1975 graduate of Depew High School in Buffalo, N.Y. He earned bachelor of science degrees in mathematics and economics in 1980 from State University of New York at Buffalo, a master of arts degree in management in 1993 from Webster

University, Mo., and a master of arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Colonel Szpila was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1981 and is a master navigator with more than 3,800 hours in C-130s.

EDUCATION:

- 1980 Bachelor of science degrees in mathematics and economics, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.
- 1986 Squadron Officer School, Correspondence
- 1988 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1993 Master of Arts in Management, Webster University, Mo.
- 1994 Air Command and Staff College, Correspondence
- 1997 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1998 Air War College, Correspondence
- 2001 Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. January 1982 – July 1982, student navigator, 450th Flying Training Squadron, Mather Air Force Base, Calif.
2. July 1982 – November 1982, C-130 upgrade training, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.
3. January 1983 – February 1986, C-130E/H instructor navigator, 21st Tactical Airlift Squadron/374th Tactical Airlift Wing, Clark Air Base, Philippines

4. February 1986 – August 1990, C-130E Adverse Weather Aerial Delivery evaluator navigator, 40th Tactical Airlift Squadron/317th Tactical Airlift Wing, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.
5. August 1990 – April 1991, chief navigator, 1640th Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional), Southwest Asia
6. April 1991 – August 1993, test director, U.S. Air Force Mobility Center, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.
7. August 1993 – July 1995, operations officer and flight commander, 24th Training Squadron, Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
8. July 1995 – July 1997, chief, Leadership and Command Division, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
9. July 1997 – July 1999, operations officer, 61st Airlift Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.
10. July 1999 – July 2000, commander, 463rd Operations Support Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.
11. July 2000 – July 2001, student, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
12. July 2001 – July 2002, chief, Operations Modernization Division, Headquarters, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
13. July 2002 – July 2003, chief, Combat Operations Division, Headquarters, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
14. July 2003 – July 2004, deputy commander, 3rd Operations Group, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska
15. Aug 2004 – present, commander, 43rd Operations Group, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator
 Flight Hours: More than 3,800
 Aircraft C-130E/H
 Flown:

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
 Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Commendation Medal
 Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters
 Southwest Asia Service Medal with two service stars

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	Nov 6, 1981
First Lieutenant	Nov 6, 1983
Captain	Nov 6, 1985
Major	Feb 1, 1994
Lieutenant Colonel	Aug 1, 1998

Colonel	Apr 1, 2004
---------	-------------